

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Adverse effects of DTH system

1021. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government feel the DTH (Direct to Home) system which provides multi-channel TV programmes directly to subscribers, will have some adverse effect on the DD, like reduction of viewership;

(b) if so, what precautionary measures are contemplated; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that DTH facility is already available in a limited way by roof top antennas?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir. Doordarshan channels will be available through terrestrial transmitters, through cable network and also through DTH platform.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir. Direct to Home (DTH) Television Service normally refers to distribution of multi channel TV programmes in KU Band or higher band by using a satellite system to beam TV signals direct to subscribers, which can be received by a small antenna, whereas the larger roof top antennas are used to receive Satellite TV Channels in C Band.

Land for Construction of a film Complex

1022. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh Government has allotted a prime land for construction of a Film Complex to National Centre for Films for Children and Young People;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the construction of the complex is being unnecessarily delayed;

(c) whether Government have been requested by Andhra Pradesh Government to instruct the National Centre for Films for Children and Young People to construct the Complex at the earliest;

(d) if so, the details of the instructions so issued; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had originally allotted ten acres of land to the National Centre for Children and Young People, now called the Children's Film Society of India, at Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad, the possession of which was handed over to CFSI in September, 1997. However, due to unsuitability of land, work on the Complex could not commence and the land was surrendered. Thereafter, in November, 2000, the Andhra Pradesh Government approved allotment of another piece of land.

(c) Yes, Sir. A letter dated 5.12.2000 has been received from the Managing Director, Andhra Pradesh State Film, Television and Theatre Development Corporation Limited requesting placement of the earmarked amount at the disposal of CFSI to start the construction on the project immediately.

(d) and (e) The possession of the land now allotted has been taken over by CFSI on 3.1.2001.

International media conference

1023. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India hosted the International Press Institute's World Congress in the month of January, 2001;

(b) if so, what was the main purpose of this International Media Conference;

(c) what were the main subjects discussed; and

(d) whether Government have accepted the recommendations made in the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) International Media Conference was organized at New Delhi from January 26—29, 2001 by International Press Institute, which is a non-Government body. The Government has not received the outcome of the deliberations of the Conference.